

May 29, 1962

Mr. R. Sargent Shriver, Jr.  
Peace Corps  
806 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Room 513  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Shriver:

Having recently returned from Japan I was very disappointed not to have found any word of the Foundation's reaction to Dorfman's proposal. I hope this has been approved and that there was simply some oversight in my hearing about it. Or perhaps I was mistaken to hope that there could be a prompter reaction based only on my own personal judgement. I can very well understand how busy and preoccupied you must be and am sorry to pester you about an incidental issue.

The NIH Study Section made a site visit to go over our program in brain protein chemistry, unfortunately, while I was away. However, Dr. Shooter was there and together with some of my other colleagues was able to make a very effective presentation. My informal understanding is that the basic principles of the project were very well received and can be assured of effective long term support from the NIH. They were concerned, however, about the commitment of a large grant at this early stage when we really did not have our people lined up for this particular project, and the actual award for the first year will probably be cut substantially below my request. They indicated, however, that they would be prepared to react within a reasonable length of time if the event required additional funds for the actual starting up of the full program according to my (perhaps too) optimistic projections. Altogether this is a perfectly acceptable outcome except for the implication of still more paper work that will have to be done to assure the financial support for the work, none of which is especially helpful in keeping me in the laboratory. This problem has been very much aggravated altogether in recent months by directives from the NIH which are a reaction to congressional pressure for more effective adding of research grants. I am sure these concerns are infinitesimal compared with the operation of a government agency, but they certainly do not give very much assurance of the far-sightedness with which the federal largess can be administered in fields such as higher education.

Following my suggestions, as I had written you earlier, Dr. Irena Koprowska at Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia has organized a very large scale study directed towards the cytological prediction of

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propensity to the birth of mongol offspring. If she can get the NIH support merited by her application, this should be one more promising attack on that problem.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/jc